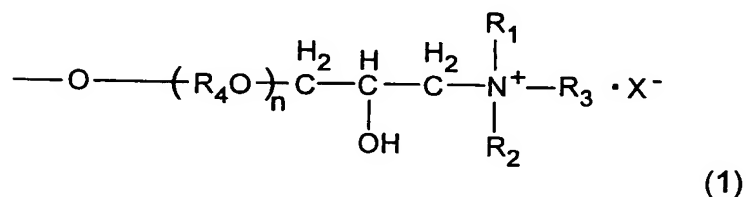


Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Original) A cation-modified purified galactomannan polysaccharide prepared by partially substituting hydroxyl groups of a purified galactomannan polysaccharide with a quaternary nitrogen-containing group of Formula (1), the purified galactomannan polysaccharide being prepared by purified a crude galactomannan polysaccharide, comprising a main chain composed of mannose units and a side chain composed of a galactose units, and containing 80 wt% of galactomannan:



(where R₁ and R₂ each independently represent an alkyl group having 1 to 3 carbon atoms; R₃ represents an alkyl group having 1 to 24 carbon atoms; X-represents an anion; n is either 0 or 1 to 30; and, when n is 1 to 30, (R₄O)_n represents a polymer residue of an alkylene oxide having 2 to 4 carbon atoms and forms a polyalkylene glycol chain composed of a single alkylene oxide and/or a polyalkylene glycol chain composed of two or more types of alkylene oxide), wherein the cation charge density derived from the quaternary nitrogen-containing group is in the range of 0.1 to 3.0 meq/g.

2. (Original) The cation-modified purified galactomannan polysaccharide according to claim 1, wherein an aqueous solution of the purified galactomannan polysaccharide containing 80 wt% or more of galactomannan forms a gel with an aqueous solution of xanthan gum and/or carrageenan.

3. (Currently Amended) The cation-modified purified galactomannan polysaccharide according to claim 1-~~or 2~~, wherein the purified galactomannan polysaccharide containing 80 wt% or more of galactomannan comprises amino chain composed of mannose and a side chain composed of galactose units and has a mannose to galactose ratio of 4:1.

4. (Currently Amended) The cation-modified galactomannan purified polysaccharide according to ~~one of claims 1 to 3~~claim 1, wherein the purified galactomannan polysaccharide having a mannose to galactose ratio of 4:1 is a natural water-soluble gum obtained from albumens of seeds of locust bean (*Ceratonia Siliqua*), which is a perennial leguminous plant.

5. (Currently Amended) The cation-modified purified galactomannan polysaccharide according to claim 1-~~or 2~~, wherein the purified galactomannan polysaccharide containing 80 wt% or more of galactomannan comprises amino chain composed of mannose and a side chain composed of galactose units and has a mannose to galactose ratio of 3:1.

6. (Currently Amended) The cation-modified purified galactomannan polysaccharide according to claim 1, ~~2, or 5~~, wherein the purified galactomannan polysaccharide has a mannose to galactose ratio of 3:1 and is a natural water-soluble gum obtained from albumens of seeds of tara (*Caesalpinio Spinnosa*), a leguminous plant.

7. (Currently Amended) The cation-modified purified galactomannan polysaccharide according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 6~~claim 1, wherein the substitution of the hydroxyl groups in the purified galactomannan polysaccharide with the quaternary nitrogen-containing group is carried out through a reaction between galactomannan polysaccharide and one of a glycidyltrialkyl ammonium salt and a 3-halogeno-2-hydroxy-propyltrialkyl ammonium salt.

8. (Currently Amended) The cation-modified purified galactomannan polysaccharide according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 7~~claim 1, wherein cation-modified of the purified galactomannan polysaccharide is conducted by adding an alkylene oxide having 2 to 4 carbon atoms to part of hydroxyl groups in the purified galactomannan polysaccharide, followed by

substitution with a glycidyltrialkyl ammonium salt or a 3-halogeno-2-hydroxypropyltrialkyl ammonium salt functioning as a cationic modifier.

9. (Currently Amended) A cosmetic composition comprising the cation-modified galactomannan purified polysaccharide according to ~~one of claims 1 to 8~~claim 1.

10. (Currently Amended) The cosmetic composition according to claim 9, wherein the content of the cation-modified purified galactomannan polysaccharide ~~according to one of claims 1 to 8~~ is 0.05 to 5 wt% relative to 100 wt% of the entire composition.

11. (Currently Amended) The cosmetic composition according to claim 9 ~~or 10~~, further comprising less than 5 wt% of a cationic water-soluble polymer and/or an amphoteric water-soluble polymer relative to 100 wt% of the entire composition.

12. (Currently Amended) The cosmetic composition according to ~~one of claims 9 to 11~~claim 9, further comprising an amideamine compound, a neutralizing agent such as an organic acid and/or an inorganic acid, a higher fatty acid, and/or a higher alcohol.

13. (Currently Amended) The cosmetic composition according to ~~one of claims 9 to 12~~claim 9, further comprising silicone.

14. (Currently Amended) A hair treatment composition comprising the cosmetic composition according to ~~one of claims 9 to 13~~claim 9.